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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PETER T. SANTILLI,

Defendant.

2:16-cr-00046-GMN-PAL

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States, by and through the undersigned, and the defendant, PETER T. SANTILLI, and his attorney, Chris Rasmussen, respectfully submit this Plea Agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A) and (B).

I. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

The parties to this Plea Agreement are the United States of America and the defendant, PETER T. SANTILLI. This Plea Agreement binds the defendant and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada. It does not bind any other prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authority, the United States Probation

Office, or the Court.

The Plea Agreement sets forth the parties' agreement regarding criminal charges referenced in the Plea Agreement and applicable sentences, fines, restitution and forfeiture. It does not control or prohibit the United States or any agency or third party from seeking any other civil or administrative remedies directly or indirectly against the defendant.

II. DISPOSITION OF CHARGES AND WAIVER OF TRIAL RIGHTS

A. Guilty Plea. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to plead guilty to Count Two of the Superseding Indictment filed on March 2, 2016, charging Conspiracy to Impede or Injure a Federal Officer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 372.

B. Waiver of Trial Rights. The defendant acknowledges that he has been advised and understands that by entering a plea of guilty he is waiving -- that is, giving up -- certain rights guaranteed to all defendants by the laws and the Constitution of the United States. Specifically, the defendant is giving up:

1. The right to proceed to trial by jury on all charges, or to a trial by a judge if the defendant and the United States both agree;

2. The right to confront the witnesses against the defendant at trial and to cross examine them;

3. The right to remain silent at such a trial, with assurance that his silence could not be used against him in any way;

4. The right to testify in his own defense at such a trial if he so chooses;

1 5. The right to compel witnesses to appear at such a trial and testify
2 in the defendant's behalf; and

3 6. The right to have the assistance of an attorney at all stages of
4 such proceedings.

5 C. Withdrawal of Guilty Plea. The defendant will not seek to withdraw
6 his guilty plea after he has entered it in court.

7 D. Dismissal of Charges. After the Court has adjudged a sentence in this
8 case, the government will move to dismiss all remaining charges in the Superseding
9 Indictment.

10 E. Additional Charges. The United States agrees not to bring any
11 additional charges against the defendant arising out of the investigation in the
12 District of Nevada which culminated in this Plea Agreement or for conduct known
13 to the United States at the time of this Agreement.

14 **III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE**

15 The elements of Conspiracy to Impede or Injure a Federal Officer in violation
16 of Title 18, United States Code, Section 372 are as follows:

17 1. From on or about March 28, 2014, to on or about March 2, 2016, there was
18 an agreement between two or more persons to:

19 a. prevent, by force, intimidation, or threats, federal law enforcement
20 officers from discharging the duties of their office under the United
21 States, or

22 b. induce, by force, intimidation, or threats, any federal law
23 enforcement officer of the United States to leave the place where

1 their duties were required to be performed; and

- 2 2. That the defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least
3 one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it.

4 **IV. FACTS SUPPORTING GUILTY PLEA**

5 A. The defendant will plead guilty because he is, in fact and under the law,
6 guilty of the crime charged.

7 B. The defendant acknowledges that if he elected to go to trial instead of
8 pleading guilty, the United States could prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
9 The defendant further acknowledges that his admissions and declarations of fact set
10 forth below satisfy every element of the charged offense.

11 C. The defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts he
12 admitted in this Plea Agreement were insufficient to satisfy the elements of the
13 charged offense.

14 D. The defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the
15 facts set forth below are true and correct:

- 16 1. Beginning on or around March 28, 2014, federal law enforcement officers from
17 the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and
18 National Park Service were engaged in the official duties of executing federal
19 court orders to remove and impound cattle trespassing upon federal public
20 lands in and around Bunkerville, Nevada, the cattle belonging to Cliven
21 Bundy, a local rancher.
- 22 2. Defendant Santilli knew that Cliven Bundy and his sons, Ammon, Dave, Mel,
23 and Ryan, (collectively, "the Bundys"), and others associated with them,
planned to thwart, impede and interfere with impoundment operations.
3. On April 9, 2014, Defendant Santilli used force to prevent officers from
discharging their duties by using his vehicle to block BLM law enforcement

officers and civilian employees as they were performing their duties related to the impoundment.

4. Defendant Santilli drove his vehicle straight toward a BLM law enforcement officer's vehicle, preventing the officer and the rest of the convoy behind him from being able to move forward.
5. The officer ordered Defendant Santilli to move out of the way but Defendant Santilli continued to block the convoy's path. Defendant Santilli finally reversed his vehicle out of the path of the convoy only after the officer repeated the command several times.
6. By using force to block the convoy, Defendant Santilli allowed others to surround the convoy and threaten the occupants of the vehicles by force violence and fear, inducing the officers to leave the place where their duties were required to be performed.
7. Defendant Santilli acknowledges that all of the above took place within the State and Federal District of Nevada.

V. COLLATERAL USE OF FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

The facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Agreement shall be admissible against the defendant under Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A) at sentencing for any purpose. If the defendant does not plead guilty or withdraws his guilty pleas, the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Agreement shall be admissible at any proceeding, including a trial, for impeaching or rebutting any evidence, argument or representation offered by or on the defendant's behalf. The defendant expressly waives all rights under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 regarding the use of the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Agreement.

VI. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES PROVISIONS

A. Discretionary Nature of Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant

acknowledges that the Court must consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("USSG" or "Sentencing Guidelines") in determining the defendant's sentence, but that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory, and the Court has discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum term of imprisonment permitted by statute.

B. Offense Level Calculations. The parties stipulate to the following calculation of the defendant's offense level under the Sentencing Guidelines, acknowledge that these stipulations do not bind the Court, and agree that they will not seek to apply any other specific offense characteristics, enhancements or reductions under the Sentencing Guidelines:

Base offense level (USSG §§ 2X1.1, 2A2.4(a))	10
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Special Offense Characteristics	
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Official victim (USSG § 3A1.2(b))	+6
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Offense was calculated to influence or affect the conduct of the government by intimidation or coercion (USSG § 3A1.4; comment n. 4))	+5
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Adjusted Offense Level	21
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Acceptance (USSG §§ 3E1.1(a) and (b))	(2)
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Total Adjusted Offense Level	19
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Variance for Timely Resolution	(4)
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Total Offense Level	<u>15</u>
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The defendant acknowledges that the statutory maximum sentence and any statutory minimum sentence limit the Court's discretion in determining the defendant's sentence notwithstanding any applicable Sentencing Guidelines provisions.

1 C. Reduction of Offense Level for Acceptance of Responsibility. Under
2 USSG § 3E1.1(a), the United States will recommend that the defendant receive a
3 two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless he (a) fails to
4 truthfully admit facts establishing a factual basis for the guilty plea when he enters
5 the plea; (b) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the amount of restitution
6 owed when he enters his guilty plea; (c) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing
7 the forfeiture allegations when he enters his guilty plea; (d) provides false or
8 misleading information to the United States, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the
9 Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offense or provides conflicting
10 statements regarding his involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests
11 conduct relevant to the offense; (f) attempts to withdraw his guilty plea; (g) commits
12 or attempts to commit any crime; (h) fails to appear in court; or (i) violates the
13 conditions of pretrial release. These Sentencing Guidelines provisions, if applied,
14 will result in a total adjusted offense level of 15, as stated above.

15 D. Variance Outside Advisory Guidelines Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553. As
16 consideration for the defendant's timely resolution of a complex, multi-defendant
17 matter, which allows the government to conserve and efficiently use its resources,
18 the parties agree to a four-level reduction to the adjusted offense level as a variance
19 outside the USSG Guideline System under Title 18, United States Code, Section
20 3553. The variance is based on the defendant's willingness to resolve the case as
21 seven defendants head to a joint trial, resulting in substantial savings of time and
22 expense to the United States government. If applied, this adjustment will result in
23 a Total Offense Level of 15, as delineated above.

1 E. Criminal History Category. The defendant acknowledges that the
2 Court may base its sentence in part on his criminal record or criminal history and
3 that the Court will determine the defendant's Criminal History Category under the
4 Sentencing Guidelines.

5 F. Relevant Conduct. The Court may consider all relevant conduct,
6 whether charged or uncharged, in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines
7 range and whether to depart from that range.

8 G. Additional Sentencing Information. The stipulated Sentencing
9 Guidelines calculations are based on information now known to the parties. The
10 parties may provide additional information to the United States Probation Office
11 and the Court regarding the nature, scope, and extent of the defendant's criminal
12 conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or circumstances. Good faith efforts
13 to provide truthful information or to correct factual misstatements shall not be
14 grounds for the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

15 The parties further agree that other than the stipulated guidelines
16 calculations, neither party will argue for additional adjustments, enhancements, or
17 departures under the Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant, however, is free to
18 argue for further variances from the Guideline calculations under Title 18, United
19 States Code, Section 3553.

20 The defendant acknowledges that the United States Probation Office may
21 calculate the Sentencing Guidelines differently and may rely on additional
22 information it obtains through its investigation. The defendant also acknowledges
23 that the Court may rely on this and other additional information as it calculates the

1 Sentencing Guidelines range and makes other sentencing determinations as
2 appropriate, and that the Court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds
3 for the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

4 **VII. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING STATUTES**

5 A. Maximum Penalty. Count 2: The maximum penalty for Conspiracy to
6 Impede or Injure a Federal Officer under 18 U.S.C. § 372 is 6 years imprisonment, a
7 fine of \$250,000, or both.

8 B. Factors Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553. The Court must consider the factors
9 set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining the defendant's sentence. However,
10 the statutory maximum sentence and any statutory minimum sentence limit the
11 Court's discretion in determining the defendant's sentence.

12 C. Parole Abolished. The defendant acknowledges that his prison
13 sentence cannot be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been
14 abolished.

15 D. Supervised Release. In addition to imprisonment and a fine, the
16 defendant will be subject to a term of supervised release not greater than three (3)
17 years. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(b)(1). Supervised release is a period of time after release
18 from prison during which the defendant will be subject to various restrictions and
19 requirements. If the defendant violates any condition of supervised release, the
20 Court may order the defendant's return to prison for all or part of the term of
21 supervised release, which could result in the defendant serving a total term of
22 imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum prison sentence.

23 E. Special Assessment. The defendant will pay a \$100 special assessment

per count at the time of sentencing.

VIII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCE

The parties agree that as a part of the sentence in this case, the parties will jointly recommend at the time of sentencing a sentence of imprisonment for a period of the time served measured from January 26, 2016, either as a USSG Guideline Sentence, a sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553(a), or both. The parties further agree to jointly recommend a period of supervised release of three years to follow the sentence of imprisonment imposed by the Court.

The defendant acknowledges that the Court does not have to follow this recommendation.

IX. RESTITUTION

The parties agree that restitution is not mandatory based on the crime to which he has pleaded guilty. As a further part of this plea agreement, the government does not intend to seek non-mandatory restitution in connection with the events giving rise to the Superseding Indictment.

X. FORFEITURE

The government agrees to dismiss any forfeiture counts following imposition of sentence in this case and will not pursue any forfeiture in connection with the events giving rise to the Superseding Indictment.

XI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

Before or after sentencing, or upon request by the Court, the United States, or the Probation Office, the defendant will provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn statements, and/or give depositions under oath

1 concerning his assets. The defendant will release such funds and property under his
2 control in order to pay any assessment and/or fine imposed by the Court.

3 **XII. RELEASE PENDING IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE**

4 As of the date of this Agreement, the defendant remains subject to an Order
5 of pretrial detention. Following the entry of defendant's pleas of guilty pursuant to
6 the terms of this agreement, the government will recommend to the Court that the
7 defendant be released from pretrial detention on his own recognizance pending the
8 imposition of sentence and subject to an Order of Release that includes, but is not
9 limited to, the following agreed upon terms and conditions:

- 10 1. The defendant will not violate any federal, state or local law.
- 11 2. The defendant must immediately advise the court, defense
12 counsel, and the U.S. Attorney in writing before changing
address or telephone number.
- 13 3. The defendant must appear in court as required.
- 14 4. The defendant must report to a United States Pretrial
15 Services Office as directed.
- 16 5. The defendant must actively seek and/or maintain employment
17 and notify U.S. Pretrial Services before making any change in
employment.
- 18 6. The defendant will not use or possess any illegal or controlled
19 substances and will not knowingly associate or reside with
anyone who does.
- 20 7. The defendant will submit to drug/alcohol testing as directed by
U.S. Pretrial Services.
- 21 8. The defendant will not possess a firearm, destructive device, or
22 other dangerous weapon.
- 23 9. The defendant will not travel outside the State and Federal
District of Nevada except as approved by U.S. Pretrial Services
and with notice to the United States Attorney's Office.

1 10. The defendant will surrender any passport to U.S. Pretrial
2 Services and will not obtain any passport or other travel
3 documents.

4 The defendant understands that the Court is not bound by the
5 recommendation of the government regarding pretrial release and is free either to
6 continue detention or impose such other terms and conditions of release as it deems
7 appropriate under the circumstances.

8 **XIII. THE DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND WAIVERS**

9 A. Plea Agreement and Decision to Plead Guilty. The defendant
10 acknowledges that:

11 1. He has read this Plea Agreement and understands its terms and
12 conditions;

13 2. He has had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and
14 this Plea Agreement with his attorney;

15 3. He has discussed the terms of this Plea Agreement with his
16 attorney;

17 4. The representations contained in this Plea Agreement are true
18 and correct, including the facts set forth in Section IV; and

19 5. He was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine
20 that would impair his ability to understand the Agreement when he considered
21 signing this Plea Agreement and when he signed it.

22 The defendant understands that he alone decides whether to plead guilty or
23 go to trial, and acknowledges that he has decided to enter his guilty plea knowing of
 the charges brought against him, his possible defenses, and the benefits and possible

1 detriments of proceeding to trial. The defendant also acknowledges that he decided
2 to plead guilty voluntarily and that no one coerced or threatened him to enter into
3 this Plea Agreement.

4 B. Waiver of Appeal and Post-Conviction Proceedings. The defendant
5 knowingly and expressly waives: (a) the right to appeal any sentence imposed within
6 or below the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the Court; (b)
7 the right to appeal the manner in which the Court determined that sentence on the
8 grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742; and (c) the right to appeal any other aspect of
9 the conviction or sentence and any order of restitution or forfeiture.

10 The defendant also knowingly and expressly waives all collateral challenges,
11 including any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to his conviction, sentence, and the
12 procedure by which the Court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-
13 waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

14 The defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence
15 that is an upward departure from the Sentencing Guidelines range determined by
16 the Court.

17 The defendant acknowledges that the United States is not obligated or
18 required to preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

19 C. Removal/Deportation Consequences. The defendant understands and
20 acknowledges that if he is not a United States citizen, then it is highly probable that
21 he will be permanently removed (deported) from the United States as a consequence
22 of pleading guilty under the terms of this Plea Agreement. The defendant has also
23 been advised if his conviction is for an offense described in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(43), he

1 will be deported and removed from the United States and will not be allowed to
2 return to the United States at any time in the future. The defendant desires to plead
3 guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may result from his guilty
4 plea, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States with no
5 possibility of returning. The defendant acknowledges that he has specifically
6 discussed these removal/deportation consequences with his attorney.

XIV. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Plea Agreement resulted from an arms-length negotiation in which both parties bargained for and received valuable benefits in exchange for valuable concessions. It constitutes the entire agreement negotiated and agreed to by the parties. No promises, agreements or conditions other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or the United States, and no additional promises, agreements or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the Court.

STEVEN W. MYHRE
Acting United States Attorney

10-6-17
DATE

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ERIN M. CREEGAN
Special Assistant United States Attorney

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CHRIS RASMUSSEN
Counsel for Defendant

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